

Message Text

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ORIGIN SNM-02

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NSC-07 SCI-06 OMB-01 DODE-00 IGA-02 L-03 (ISO) R

DRAFTED BY S/NM:NWARNER:JG

APPROVED BY S/NM:SBVANCE

ARA:APSHANKLE (DRAFT)

ARA/MEX:JKEANE (DRAFT)

OPS/N:CBERNAL (DRAFT)

DEA:HMORENO (DRAFT)

----- 020590

R 251546Z SEP 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 211117

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, MX

SUBJECT: DISCUSSIONS WITH OJEDA - AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE

1. VANCE AND BARTELS MET WITH OJEDA SEPTEMBER 17 FOR APPROXIMATELY ONE HOUR. HIGHLIGHTS FOLLOW.

2. OJEDA STRESSED HIS RESPONSIBILITY UNDER CONSTITUTION FOR ALL NARCOTICS CONTROL ACTIVITIES IN MEXICO, AND NOTED THAT PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA HAD SPECIFICALLY RE-AFFIRMED HIS RESPONSIBILITY AND AUTHORITY IN THIS RESPECT. IN DISCHARGING THIS RESPONSIBILITY HIS STAFF AND HE MEETING SEVERAL TIMES EVERY WEEK WITH MEXICAN ARMY GENERAL STAFF TO DISCUSS COORDINATION OF NARCOTICS ERADICATION ACTIVITIES. HE ALSO CONFIRMED THAT HE HAS AGREEMENT OF MEXICAN MILITARY FOR TROOPS ENGAGED IN ERADICATION TO CROSS OVER MILITARY DISTRICT LINES. OJEDA ALSO STATED THAT THREE MILITARY ZONE COMMANDERS IN SINALOA, CHIHUAHUA AND DURANGO ARE TO BE REPLACED BY NEW COMMANDERS HAND-PICKED FOR THEIR
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COMPETENCE AND INTEGRITY AND HARD-NOSED ATTITUDE TOWARD

DRUG TRAFFICKING. (SEPTTEL WILL FOLLOW DISCUSSING HOW THIS BEARS ON PROPOSAL IN MEXICO 7645, AND ANY ACTION ON THAT PROPOSAL SHOULD BE WITHHELD UNTIL USG POSITION FIRMED UP RE US ASSISTANCE TO MEXICAN MILITARY AUTHORITIES IN ERADICATION EFFORT.)

3. ON SUBJECT OF AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE, OJEDA VOICED CONFIDENCE IN HIS OWN AIR DIVISION SPECIALISTS, BUT AGREED

ON VALUE OF ADVICE AND SERVICES WHICH BELL AS MANUFACTURER OF AIRCRAFT IN POSITION TO SUPPLY IN FORM OF ADDITIONAL SPECIALIZED PERSONNEL TO ADVISE AND ASSIST MEXICAN PERSONNEL IN ASSURING PROPER MAINTENANCE. ACCORDINGLY, HE AMENABLE TO OUR RECOMMENDATION THAT ADDITIONAL SPECIALIZED MAINTENANCE EXPERTS BE BROUGHT INTO MEXICO FOR THIS PURPOSE.

4. TO IMPLEMENT THESE UNDERSTANDINGS WITH OJEDA, WE BELIEVE BEST SOLUTION WOULD BE CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENT BETWEEN USG AND BELL UNDER WHICH BELL WOULD FURNISH A SYSTEM DESIGN EXPERT AND, UNDER HIS SUPERVISION, SPECIALIZED TECHNICAL PERSONNEL TO ADVISE AND ASSIST MFJP AIR DIVISION IN (1) SETTING UP MAINTENANCE SYSTEM WITHIN MFJP AIR DIVISION, AND (2) AUGMENTING MFJP SPECIALIZED MAINTENANCE CAPABILITY DURING INTERIM PERIOD WHILE SYSTEM BEING ESTABLISHED AND MEXICAN PERSONNEL BEING FURTHER TRAINED AS NEEDED TO OPERATE SYSTEM 100 PERCENT ON THEIR OWN.

5. USG ASSISTANCE IN THIS RESPECT WOULD BE INCLUDED IN USG-GOM AGREEMENT NOW BEING DRAFTED. LANGUAGE OF AGREEMENT WOULD BE SUFFICIENTLY BROAD TO PERMIT PROVISION OF A WIDE RANGE OF SERVICES (INCLUDING PROCUREMENT OF SPARE PARTS AND SERVICES, LOGISTICS MANAGEMENT, MAINTENANCE, OVERHAUL AND TRAINING) UNDER GENERAL RUBRIC OF BELL TECHREPS, AS SUCH SERVICES ARE IDENTIFIED AND AGREED TO IN TECHNICAL LEVEL DISCUSSIONS. KISSINGER

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